

REMARKS

In the Official Action of February 3, 2005, the Examiner required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between two allegedly distinct inventions, namely:

Invention I, referring to claims 1-34, 47-52, 57-58 and 60, drawn to a method and apparatus for embedding and removing a watermark; and

Invention II, referring to claims 35-46, 53-56, 59 and 61, drawn to a method and apparatus for managing watermark information.

The Examiner has contended that Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination, but that Invention II is usable separately, such as to provide a content registration service and manage related information.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant hereby elects to prosecute claims 1-34 of Invention I in this application. Accordingly, claims 47-52, 57-58 and 60 of Invention I and claims 35-46, 53-56, 59 and 61 of Invention II stand withdrawn from consideration in the present application without prejudice to applicant's right to file one or more divisional applications directed thereto.

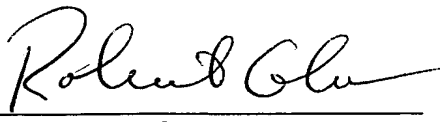
Application No.: 09/837,412

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-156

If there are any additional charges in connection with this response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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